

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
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TAGS: PEPR, GE, GW
SUBJECT: HONECKER COMMENTS ON THE GDR'S RELATIONS
WITH THE FRG

REF: BERLIN 3324

1. ERICH HONECKER, SED GENERAL SECRETARY,
IN A REPORT TO THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE MAY 24
(BEING REPORTED SEPTEL) GAVE A STATEMENT ON THE GDR'S
RELATIONS WITH THE FRG. HE CRITICIZED THE FRG,
REFERRING TO ACTIONS AGAINST THE POLICY OF DETENTE
WHICH HAVE RECENTLY BEEN ATTEMPTED IN THE FRG AND,
IN PARTICULAR, SUPPORT FOR REARMAMENT.

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2. HONECKER STATED THAT THE GDR, ALONG WITH ITS
ALLIES, "DO NOT OVERLOOK THE FACT" THAT DURING BREZHNEV'S
VISIT TO THE FRG, CERTAIN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
FRG TRIED TO BRING UP OLD REVANCHIST CONCEPTIONS,
PARTICULARLY THOSE DIRECTED AGAINST THE GDR. THESE
PEOPLE, HONECKER WENT ON, HAVE NOT COMPREHENDED

THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE TERRITORIAL STATUS QUO IN EUROPE IS THE BASIS FOR ANY RATIONAL POLICY IN EUROPE. IT WOULD BE A DANGEROUS MISTAKE, HE WARNED, TO UNDERESTIMATE THIS FACT,

3. HONECKER STATED THAT BREZHNEV'S VISIT TO THE FRG HAD MADE A DEEP IMPACT ON GLOBAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: THE TRIP WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE POLICY OF PEACE, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE FRG AND FOR THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE FRG.

4. HE STATED THAT THE SOCIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GDR AND THE FRG ARE NOT A BARRIER TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL RELATIONS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW. THERE ARE WAYS TO SETTLE MATTERS IF THE CLIMATE IS RIGHT FOR DISCUSSION. ALTHOUGH THIS CANNOT BE SAID TO BE THE CASE TODAY, THE GDR IS READY "TO HELP REMOVE THE ROCKS FROM THE PATH," EVEN THOUGH THE GDR IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR BEING THERE. PROGRESS IS POSSIBLE, HONECKER SAID, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE FRG CONSISTENTLY PROCEEDS ON THE BASIS OF THE PRINCIPLES IN THE BASIC TREATY: RECOGNITION OF FRONTIERS, RESPECT FOR SOVEREIGNTY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS, AND AS LONG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FRG AND THE GDR ARE THE SAME AS THOSE BETWEEN TWO SOVEREIGN NATIONS.

5. COMMENT: HONECKER'S STATEMENT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE IS A REITERATION OF WELL-KNOWN GDR POSITIONS ON INNER GERMAN RELATIONS. THE ONLY NOVEL ELEMENTS ARE THE COMPLETE ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO BERLIN AND THE NEED TO RESPECT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT AND THE SUGGESTION THAT THE CLIMATE IS NOT YET RIGHT FOR RESOLVING BILATERAL ISSUES, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS THAT THE GDR IS PREPARED TO PULL BACK ON NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY OR IS PREPARED TO RAISE NEW DEMANDS IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS. IN FACT, IT SEEMS TO BE BUSINESS AS USUAL BETWEEN BONN AND EAST BERLIN. END COMMENT. BOLEN

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